

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Naval Vessels Sighted in the Port of Riga DATE DISTR. 17 October 1957

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REFERENCES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Four reports containing fragmentary information on the port of Riga

AttachmentSubject

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Sighting of unidentified submarines and MTRs and fragmentary information on air activity and port controls. |
| 2 | Sighting of two escort vessels
seven submarines.
and MTRs. |
| 3 | Sighting of 30 unidentified naval vessels and five "experimental" vessels; fragmentary information on air activity and construction. |
| 4 | Sighting of 14 unidentified naval vessels and four unidentified submarines |

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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Information from SSSR.

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Area. RIGA.

1. NAVAL.

5 - 6 submarines and an indefinite number of small naval vessels were observed in the Winter Harbour at the mouth of the DAUGAVA (DUNAMUNDE).

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Description: 4- 5 of the submarines were alike.

Streamlined, round tower on which was painted a band of black and white squares in a chequer-board pattern.

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One of the submarines was considerably larger than the others. Streamlined tower. No artillery either before or aft of the tower. The small naval vessels were mostly MTB's with a torpedo tube on each side of the wheelhouse.

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2. AIR.

From the 5th. to the 10th. June there was no action by jetplanes from the airdrome opposite EXPORT HARBOUR. Several times a day twin-engined planes were seen to take-off and land and once a four engined plane similar to the american B-29.

Otherwise twin-engined double deckers were seen continually taking-off and landing these belonged to a flying club.

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3. CONTROL.

The pilot brought with him Russian crew lists that had to be completed before arrival. The commission agent was waiting on the quay and the crew lists and ships papers were thoroughly examined in the Capt's office. The Master was asked where the vessel was built, the engines horse-power capacity, speed etc.

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Immediately the crews lists and ships papers were examined the crew were called together on the boat deck. At the same time they were informed that all drawers and cupboards were to be left unlocked and accessible for the examiners.

Each man was identified with his passport by an officer. The ship was afterwards examined - two Russians and one of the ship's crew went through the cabins, decks, messes and in the engine room. The examination took about an hour. No special interest was shown in printed matter. It was again demanded that the crew be gathered together before departure and the examination was conducted as upon arrival. The pilot stood on the quay and was not allowed onboard before the examination was completed.

Landing passes were carefully controlled by a guard at the gangway each time one went ashore or came onboard. Even to go on the quay to count cargo or to read the draught it was necessary to show a landing pass. Passes were also demanded at the gate if one left the harbour area.

4. BLACK MARKET.

Outside the gate to the harbour area, and everywhere in the town people asked if one had anything to sell, especially clothing and wrist watches. Black marketing was carried on quite openly without interference by the police. There were very many prostitutes in RIGA.

5. YOUTH FESTIVAL.

A band of young people in civilian clothes marched through the main streets of RIGA on Sunday, the 9th. June. Posters were hung on the walls of houses and about half of these were printed in Russian, the rest in latin letters. [redacted] were mostly propaganda for a peace offensive and prohibition against the atom war. On the bridge over the DAGAUVA a huge poster with the word "Peace" in several languages - English and German among them - was hung. [redacted] the festival was in connection with a large sports festival that was to be held in Moscow at the end of June.

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Information from SSSR.

Area, RIGA

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1. NAVAL.

an escort destroyer was seen outside RIGA. Another destroyer of the same type was lying in the harbour. Both had flush decks with sheer, one gun forward and two aft, one wide funnel.

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submarine. came into RIGA. Medium sized. The tower was straight in front with a projecting breakwater about 4ft. above the deck, the rear sloped down to the deck in a convex arc.
See sketch.

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Six submarines were lying in the Winter harbour. Apparently the same type. None had any visible artillery, masts, periscopes, radar equipment or other projecting objects.

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A large number of small torpedo boats were also lying in the harbour. 30 were lying at one place and several others were seen on land and in other places in the harbour. They all appeared to be similar with 2 torpedo tubes on the deck.

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Attach 3

Area. RIGA.

1. NAVAL.

Up to 30 naval vessels passed [] in the river DAUGAVA [] The largest vessels (destroyers) led the column. []

[] The largest vessels had noticeably low freeboard and a set of three torpedo tubes beside the deckhouse aft. The deckhouse seemed to be curved inwards to make room for the tubes when swung out. []

5 "experimental" vessels were lying in the harbour. According to the pilot they were specially built for ice. They were of wood, 4 - 500 tons. A great deal of equipment in the form of paravans and davits was on deck, mostly covered by tarpaulines.

2. AIR.

Further up the river on the west bank an aerodrome was observed. Little or no traffic.

Continuously during their stay, [] jet planes in the air. The wings formed an approximate triangle, the nose protuded slightly, the tail rather more.

3. UNIDENTIFIED BUILDINGS.

To the west of the mouth of the river DAUGAVA some constructions were observed, one of which, visible for just a moment, seemed to be of iron rising from a cement base. The height of the whole construction was the equivalent of 2½ - 3 stories. See sketch.

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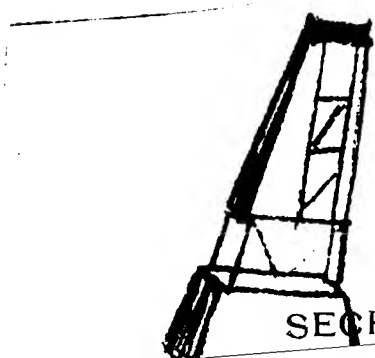
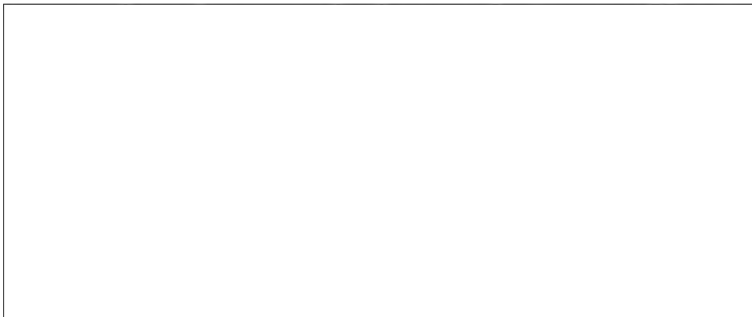
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Area. RICA.

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NAVAL.

naval vessels were observed in a position 10 - 15 n. miles northwest of the mouth of DAUGAVAS on a NWesterly course. Description: As far as it was possible to judge in the darkness the vessels were of two different classes, those of one class having a single mast aft of the bridge, while the other vessels had a tripod mast. All vessels were approx. 200ft. in length and all had only one funnel.

Roughly a half hour later 4 submarines were observed in a position 8 - 10 n. miles northwest of the mouth of the DAUGAVAS. They were not in formation but all held a northwesterly course. No description available owing to darkness and poor conditions for observation.

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